

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. For instance, claim 14 has been placed into a "method of use" format as supported by originally filed claim 14. Additionally, originally filed claim 15 has been separated into a probe claim (claim 15), a primer claim (claim 16) and a diagnostic reagent claim (claim 17). Newly added claim 18 is supported by originally filed claim 10, now amended. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Craig A. McRobbie (Reg. No. 42,874) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

for 
By 
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., #28,977

GMM/CAM/bsh

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000